

A CITY in A PARK



Little Rock Parks & Recreation

January 2015

Director's Message

"Write a song a day."
"Make up your mind."
"Work by a schedule."

These were three of the 33 new year's resolutions found scribbled in an old Woody Guthrie journal. In an article recently published by Business Insider, a look into this legendary singer-songwriter's plan for the new year reveals there are some priorities that change with time, others that remain the same.

These days most people may not make a new year's resolution to "take bath" (#4 on Guthrie's list) or "shine shoes" (#10) it's easy to see that all of us tend to focus on what's in front of us; what we call our "every day life".

As 2014 comes to a close and 2015 rolls around, I encourage you to take a look at your "everyday". What's good about it? What blessings surround you? We are a blessed people, we are a blessed city; we need to acknowledge that. At the same time, I urge you to consider the things that may need to change and make a decision to improve them..

Maybe you have a resolution to get in better physical shape, maybe run a marathon or lift more weights. Maybe you think it's time to change your habits when it comes to financial choices. Often times we resolve to watch our daily habits a little closer, prioritizing our time and talents.

Outside factors such as the economy, family and health come and go; some years we're at the top of that ladder, other times we may need a hand up. I encourage you to look deep into what it is YOU need in your life and go after it.

Luckily some of the goals listed in Guthrie's list will not correlate to our day in time...including "change socks" and "wash teeth if any". But other items, such as "save money", are just as important now as they were in olden days. In closing, I'll share two more of his goals—very similar in nature, and encouraging even today. "Wake Up and Fight" and "Work More and Better" ...

We all have a fight before us, we all face challenges. I charge us all to face those challenges in the new year and conquer them, bettering ourselves every day.

On behalf of Little Rock Parks and Recreation, we wish you a blessed, healthy and prosperous new year for you and yours. Let's all "wake up and fight" the good fight in 2015.

Truman

Consider this:

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

-Carl Bard

In This Issue

- Heavy Medals
- AmeriCorps Farewell
- Ronnie Johnson Retires
- Holiday Happenings

Busy Month for Marathon

The countdown is in full swing for the Little Rock Marathon! Directors and staff from Little Rock Parks and Recreation, along with local emergency personnel traveled to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to attend a safety summit in preparation for the upcoming Little Rock Marathon.



More exciting news came when Marathon Directors Gina and Geneva unveiled the 2015 medal—a whopping 3 pound 1 ounce beauty! This year's race theme is pirate treasure and these

medals, the largest in Little Rock Marathon's history are sure to excite participants of all levels!

Race officials say registration is almost full and expect the last few spots to fill up soon.



10K Medal



Out and About...



Top Left: Tim Lamb checks pansies at Peabody Park



Top Right: New look for Rose Creek area

Bottom Left: A new roundabout in War Memorial Park

Bottom Center: Manager Bruce Moore greets guests from Therapeutic Rec as they decorate the Parks Office for Christmas!

Bottom Right: Mayor Mark Stodola thanks and awards the AmeriCorps NCCC team before the depart Little Rock.



Ronnie Retires

After 38 years working for the City of Little Rock, Ronnie Johnson hung up his hat in retirement. A celebration was held at the Centre at University with former coworkers, friends and family of Ronnie's. Those speaking on program included City Manager Bruce Moore, Mayor Mark Stodola and Little Rock Parks and Recreation Director Truman Tolefree. Ronnie plans to relax, travel with his wife and do lots of fishing! We wish him the best in this next phase of life.



Final Farewells to the Amazing AmeriCorps Team!

After 6 weeks in Little Rock, the young adult members of the AmeriCorps NCCC team bid adieu to Little Rock. While here, they began each of their work days bright and early in uniform. Scheduled tasks included digging, planting, scrubbing, painting, pruning, cutting and blazing—all in an effort to beautify the City of Little Rock's Parks and public spaces. Their energy was contagious and their talents were paramount. We wish them the best as they travel across the nation visiting other cities and are grateful for their time spent in ours.



Jim Dailey Staff Takes the Court for a Cause

A friendly game of hoops was held December 12 at Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center...and a local charity was the winner! The Center held its first Annual Food Drive Staff Basketball Game. This year's contest was between Ryan's "Shorty Shorts" (Ryan Grist Fitness Specialist) and Shadae's "Tutu's" (Shadae Martin Front Office Manager). Staff participated in two 10-minute halves complete with a halftime show featuring the Central High School Dance team.



Announcers, referees and water "boys and girls" were made up gym members. The cost of admission was waived for one canned food item that was collected and donated to the local food bank.



Over 60 family members, friends and gym members attended to gather over 200 items for the local food bank. Staff is already looking forward to hosting the event next holiday season!

From Our Visitors:

"This past Christmas was such a beautiful day, I spent much of the afternoon at several Little Rock parks. Thank you Parks and Recreation for providing us these wonderful places to go no matter what day of the year!"

-Warren
Little Rock



Several of our parks dressed up for the holidays!

LOOKING AHEAD: Indoor Triathlon
Youth Basketball League Shines

Happy January Birthday to these staff members:

Truman Tolefree-2

Mark Ross-16

Sedric Mayfield –19

Keith King-14

James Davenport-4

Hannah Baggett-11

Allena Nelson-7

Ogugua Uchendu-23

Angela Lea-21

Rachel Miller-23

Charmmarcus Holloway Jr.,- 3

Brian Dailey-13

Deborah Petyon-15

Ray Kimbrough-6

Nathan Beal-14

Susie Matheny-26

Nicole Broadway-7

Rodney Lewis-11

Mike Garrity-26

Kenon Saine-11

George Earls-6

William Wyngaard-25

Jackie Collins-2

Baron Abdo-7



www.lrpr.org

Contact Us

Give us a call, send an email or visit our offices at City Hall. We welcome your comments!

Little Rock Parks & Recreation

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Be sure to catch a Youth Basketball League Game before the season is over! The se kids put on a show! Details & schedule on our website.

Little Rock Parks & Recreation

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE